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RR RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM  
DE RUEHBD #0138 1240805  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 040805Z MAY 07  
FM AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3806  
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

UNCLAS BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 000138

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR OES/ENV:JACKSON AND EAP/MTS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [KGLB](#) [SENV](#) [BX](#)  
SUBJECT: BRUNEI DECLINES TO PARTICIPATE IN GLOBE ASIA  
PROGRAM

REF: SECSTATE 55706

11. (SBU) On April 24, immediately prior to receipt of reftel, DCM met with Pg. Ali Hashim, Director for Bilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Unprompted, Ali Hashim informed that the Ministry of Education had decided not/not to participate in the GLOBE Asia program. Ali Hashim explained that the MinEd did not feel it was within their purview to collect environmental data.

12. (SBU) COMMENT: Over 70 percent of Brunei's territory is primal rainforest and the GoB is increasingly supporting environmental protection projects like the Heart of Borneo initiative. The Ministry of Education's reluctance to join in the seemingly non-controversial GLOBE Program reflects a deep reticence of one element of the Brunei bureaucracy to appear to be poaching on the turf of other Ministries. Post will continue to inform the GoB of the GLOBE program but we expect to continue to receive an answer of "no thanks."  
SKODON